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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES, NOVEMBER 2004 CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

Workers in the Charleston metropolitan area¹ had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$15.71 in November 2004, compared with the nationwide average of \$18.00, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that 20 of the 22 major occupational groups had wages significantly below their national counterparts, with the largest differences occurring in the management and professional grouping, in particular computer and mathematical occupations. Production was the only major occupational group to record wages significantly above its national average. Still, a total of 10 of the 22 major occupational groups in Charleston had wage rates that varied from the national average by less than \$2.00. (See table A. Also see the Technical Note, *Estimation Methodology* section, for a listing of statistically significant comparisons.)

When comparing the compositions of the workforces across areas, geographically-specific industries can help to determine which occupational categories have significantly higher employment shares. For example, office and administrative support jobs were one of six occupations that were over-represented in the Charleston area when compared to the national distribution, accounting for 19.8 percent of employment but 17.5 percent nationwide. Significantly higher occupational shares were also found in Charleston for legal; healthcare practitioners and technical; sales and related; construction and extraction; and installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.

On the other hand, compared to the national distribution, Charleston had a lower-than-average presence in eight major occupational categories: computer and mathematical; architecture and engineering; education, training, and library; arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media; food preparation and serving related; personal care and services; farming, fishing, and forestry; and production. For example, 4.3 percent of Charleston's workforce were employed in the education, training, and library profession compared to 6.2 percent nationally.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies. The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and up to 801 detailed occupations for the nation, the states, and 334 metropolitan areas.

¹ The Charleston metropolitan statistical area consists of Kanawha and Putnam Counties in West Virginia.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Charleston metropolitan area, November 2004

Major occupational group	Employment as percent of total		Average (mean) hourly wage	
	United States	Charleston	United States	Charleston
Total	100.0	100.0	\$18.00	\$15.71
Management	4.7	4.6	41.87	33.61
Business and financial operations	4.1	3.9	27.46	21.56
Computer and mathematical	2.3	1.3	31.91	21.50
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.6	30.32	24.62
Life, physical, and social science	0.9	1.2	27.67	21.26
Community and social services	1.3	1.3	17.81	13.85
Legal	0.8	1.4	39.03	32.43
Education, training, and library	6.2	4.3	20.58	18.49
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	0.8	21.07	16.16
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.0	6.3	28.03	24.25
Healthcare support	2.6	2.7	11.30	9.57
Protective service	2.4	2.1	16.94	12.07
Food preparation and serving related	8.2	7.4	8.47	7.35
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.3	10.42	8.57
Personal care and service	2.4	1.6	10.62	9.21
Sales and related	10.6	11.9	15.52	13.46
Office and administrative support	17.5	19.8	14.13	12.32
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1	9.94	8.31
Construction and extraction	4.9	6.6	18.21	18.06
Installation, maintenance, and repair	4.1	4.9	18.09	17.19
Production	7.9	4.8	14.18	15.07
Transportation and material moving	7.4	8.1	13.58	12.36

The wages for production workers in Charleston (\$15.07) were significantly above the national average (\$14.18). However, the employment share for production workers in Charleston was notably below that of the nation, 4.8 versus 7.9 percent, respectively. (See charts 1 and 2.) Within this occupational group, two of the larger detailed job categories had wages more than \$10.00 above the overall average for production workers in Charleston—chemical plant and system operators and first-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers.

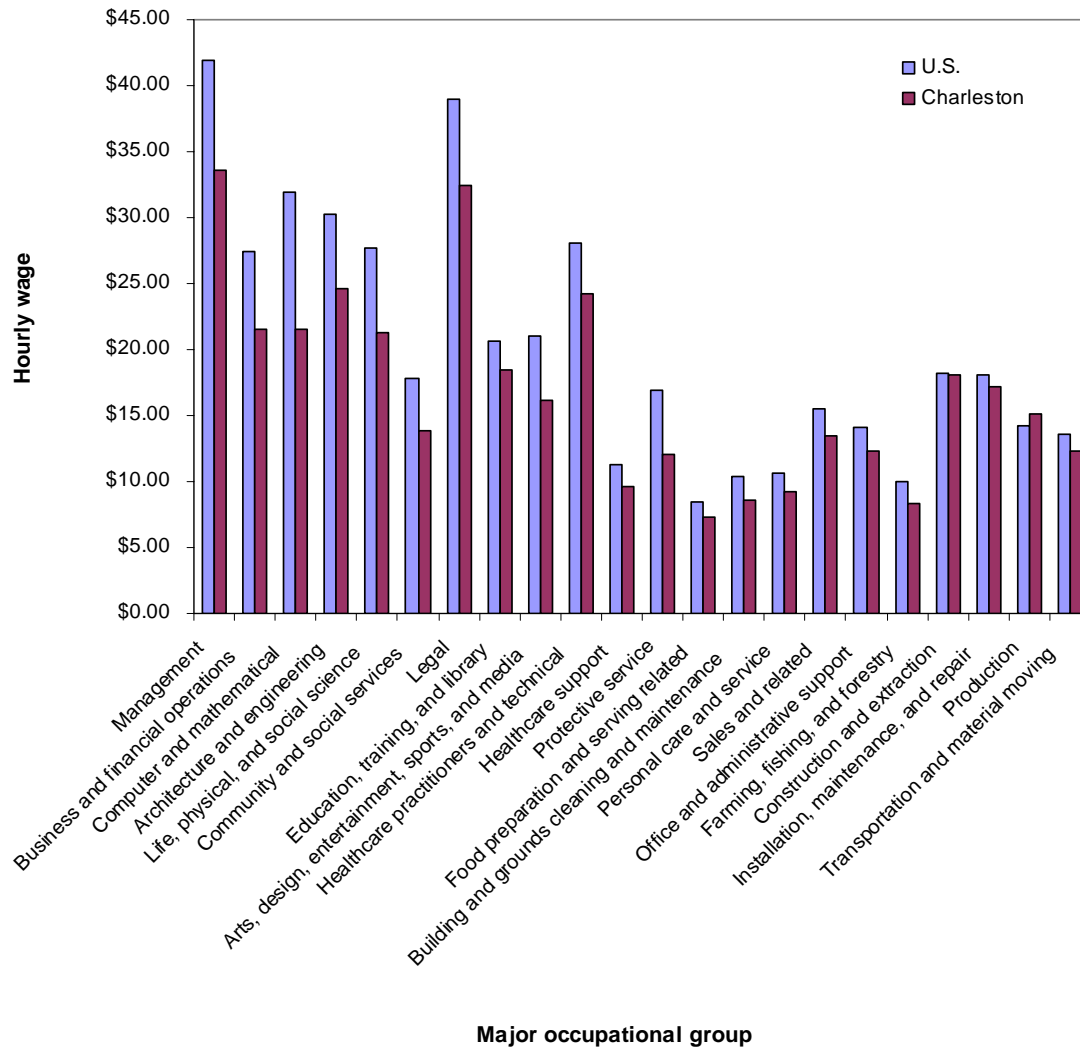
The wages for computer and mathematical workers in Charleston (\$21.50) were 32.6 percent below the national average (\$31.91). Computer and mathematical workers also had a smaller-than-average presence in the Charleston area as evidenced by a 1.3-percent employment share compared to a 2.3-percent share nationwide. At the detailed level within this occupational group, every job had wages more than \$5.00 below the nationwide average for that particular job.

Though hourly earnings for workers in management were significantly below the national average, the occupation was still among the highest paid in the Charleston area. Workers in management occupations earned \$33.61 per hour compared to \$41.87 for their national counterparts. Within the management group, chief executives and engineering managers were among the better paid at \$57.32 and \$41.89 per hour, respectively. Other highly-paid managers included those for general and operations (\$37.59), natural sciences (\$36.96) and sales (\$35.89). Among the lowest paid in this group were food service managers averaging \$18.54 per hour. (See table 1 for detailed occupations.) Management workers accounted for less than 5 percent of the workforce, both in Charleston and the nation.

Legal workers (\$32.43) were another well-paid occupational group in the Charleston area, though wages were 16.9 percent below the U.S. average of \$39.03. The legal profession was one of the smallest occupational groups in the area, as well as the nation, accounting for 1.4 and 0.8 percent of the workforce, respectively.

The architecture and engineering occupational group was also among the better paid in the Charleston area at \$24.62 per hour, but still lower than the national average of \$30.32. At the higher end of the wage scale in this occupation were chemical engineers (\$40.42), electrical engineers (\$34.77), and environmental engineers (\$30.09). Mechanical drafters were at the lower end, averaging \$14.88 per hour.

Chart 1. Wage distribution in the United States and the Charleston metropolitan area by major occupational group

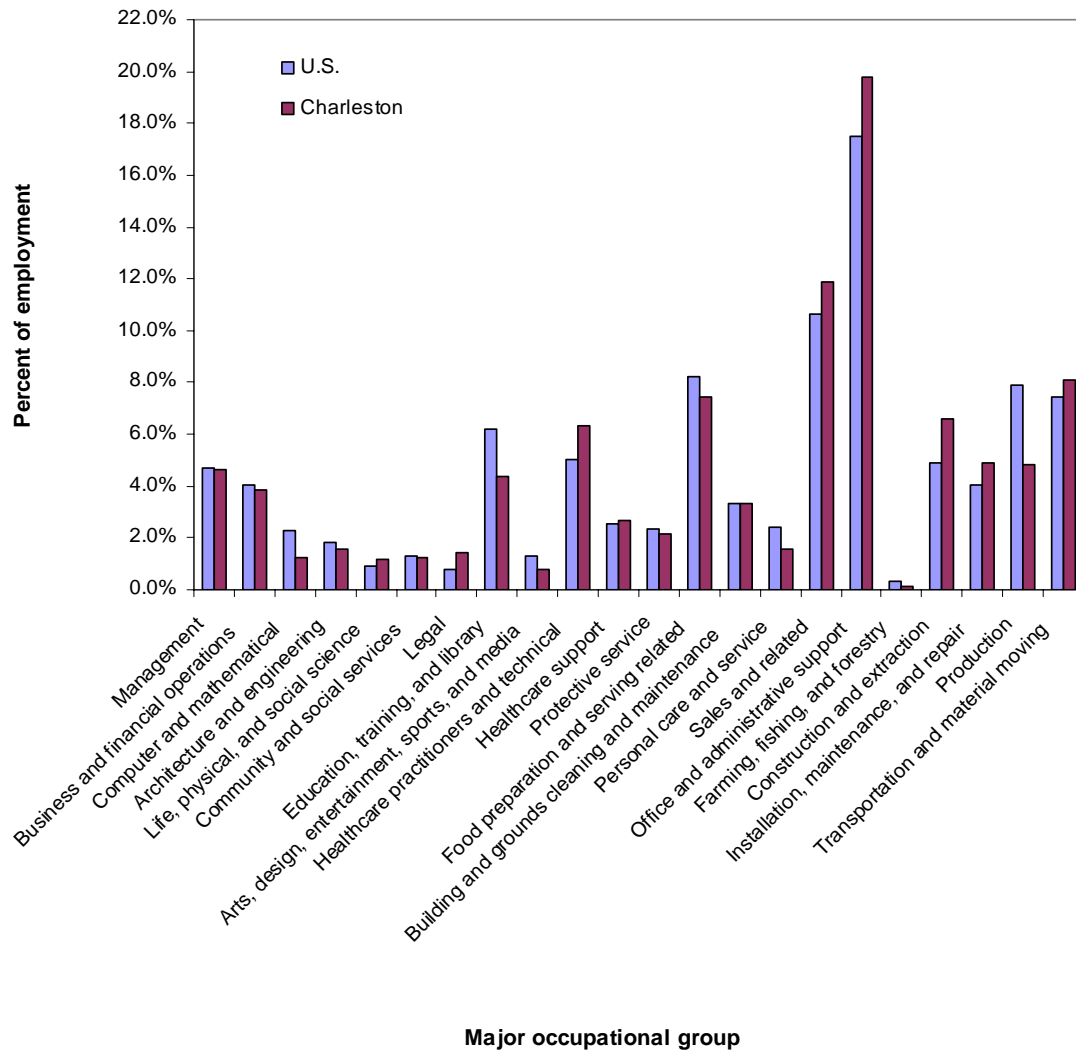


The largest occupational group in Charleston was office and administrative support, with a total of 25,160 workers. As noted earlier, office and administrative support workers had a larger-than-average presence in the Charleston area as evidenced by a 19.8-percent employment share compared to a 17.5-percent share nationwide. The hourly wage for office and administrative support workers in Charleston (\$12.32) was lower than the national average (\$14.13). Among the better paid in this occupational group were postal service mail carriers averaging \$20.65, first-line supervisors/managers of office administrative support workers averaging \$19.42, and production, planning, and expediting clerks at \$18.14. General office clerks, the largest group in the office and administrative support category with 4,390 workers, averaged \$10.82 an hour, at the lower end of the wage scale.

Sales and related workers was the second largest occupational group in Charleston and had more of a presence in the area than they did nationally (11.9 versus 10.6 percent). On the other hand, hourly wages for workers in sales and related jobs in the Charleston area were significantly lower than the national wage for this occupational group (\$13.46 versus \$15.52). First-line supervisors/managers of non-retail sales workers earning \$29.63 and securities, commodities, and financial services sales agents, earning \$24.64 an hour were among the better paid in this occupation, and cashiers and counter and rental clerks were among the lowest paid, averaging \$6.71 and \$9.23, respectively.

The transportation and material moving profession was also among the larger occupational groups in Charleston, accounting for 8.1 percent of the jobs in the Charleston area; nationally, this group represented 7.4 percent of the workforce. The hourly wages for workers in transportation and material jobs in the Charleston area were also lower than the national average for this occupational group (\$12.36 versus \$13.58).

Chart 2. Employment distribution in the United States and the Charleston metropolitan area by major occupational group



Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands also are surveyed, but their data are not included in this release. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to about 200,000 establishments in May and November of each year for a 3-year period. The nationwide response rate for the November 2004 survey was 78.7 percent for establishments, covering 73.0 percent of employment. The survey included establishments sampled in the November 2004, May 2004, November 2003, May 2003, and November 2002 semiannual panels and about half of the 2001 annual panel. The sample in the Charleston metropolitan area included 1,852 establishments with a response rate of 73 percent.

The occupational coding system:

The OES survey uses the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) occupational classification system, the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. The SOC system is the first OMB-required occupational classification system for federal agencies. The OES survey categorizes workers in 1 of 801 detailed occupations. Together, these detailed occupations comprise 23 major occupational groups, one of which--military specific occupations--is not included in the OES survey. The major groups are as follows:

- Management occupations
- Business and financial operations occupations
- Computer and mathematical science occupations
- Architecture and engineering occupations
- Life, physical, and social science occupations
- Community and social services occupations
- Legal occupations
- Education, training, and library occupations
- Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations
- Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations
- Healthcare support occupations
- Protective service occupations
- Food preparation and serving related occupations
- Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations
- Personal care and service occupations
- Sales and related occupations
- Office and administrative support occupations
- Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations
- Construction and extraction occupations
- Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations
- Production occupations
- Transportation and material moving occupations
- Military specific occupations (not surveyed in OES)

For more information about the SOC system, please see the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/soc>.

The industry coding system:

The OES survey uses the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For more information about NAICS, see the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm>.

The OES survey includes establishments in NAICS sectors 11 (logging and agricultural support activities only), 21, 22, 23, 31-33, 42, 44-45, 48-49, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 61, 62, 71, 72, 81 (except private households), state government, and local government. Data for the United States Postal Service and the federal government are universe counts obtained from the Postal Service and the Office of Personnel Management, respectively. An establishment is defined as an economic unit that processes goods or provides services, such as a factory, mine, or store. The establishment is generally at a single physical location and is engaged primarily in one type of economic activity.

The OES survey covers all full- and part-time wage and salary workers in nonfarm industries. The survey does not include the self-employed owners and partners in unincorporated firms, household workers, or unpaid family workers.

Survey sample

BLS funds the survey and provides the procedures and technical support, while the State Workforce Agencies (SWAs) collect most of the data. BLS produces cross-industry and industry-specific estimates for the nation, states, and metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). Industry estimates are produced for the NAICS sector, 3-digit, 4-digit, and selected 5-digit industry levels. BLS releases all cross-industry and national estimates, and the SWAs release industry estimates at the state and MSA levels.

State Unemployment Insurance (UI) files provide the universe from which the OES survey draws its sample. The employment benchmarks are obtained from reports submitted by employers to the UI program. Supplemental sources are used for rail transportation (NAICS 4821) and Guam because they do not report to the UI program. The OES survey sample is stratified by area, industry, and size class. Size classes are defined based on number of employees in the establishment as follows:

Size class	Number of employees
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1	1 to 4
2	5 to 9
3	10 to 19
4	20 to 49
5	50 to 99
6	100 to 249
7	250 and above

A census of federal government and the post office is taken every panel. A census of state government and Hawaii's local government is taken every November panel. Units in rail transportation (NAICS 482) and hospitals (NAICS 622) are sampled with certainty across a 3-year period. Establishments with 250 or more employees also are sampled with virtual certainty across a 3-year period; on average, one-sixth of these are sampled in each panel.

Concepts:

Occupational employment is the estimate of total wage and salary employment in an occupation across the industries surveyed. The OES survey defines employment as the number of workers who can be classified as full-or part-time employees, including workers on paid vacations or other types of paid leave; workers on unpaid short-term absences; salaried officers, executives, and staff members of incorporated firms; employees temporarily assigned to other units; and employees for whom the reporting unit is their permanent duty station regardless of whether that unit prepares their pay-check.

The OES survey forms sent to larger establishments contain between 50 and 225 SOC occupations selected on the basis of the sampled establishment's industry classification. To reduce paperwork and respondent burden, no survey form contains every SOC occupation. Thus, data for specific occupations are collected primarily from establishments in industries that are the predominant employers of workers in those occupations. Each survey form is structured, however, to allow a respondent to provide detailed occupational information for each worker at the establishment; that is, unlisted occupations can be added to the survey form. In most cases, employers with 9 or fewer workers are sent a form with no occupations listed, and are instructed to fill in the occupations for their workers.

Wages for the OES survey are straight-time, gross pay, exclusive of premium pay. Base rate, cost-of-living allowances, guaranteed pay, hazardous-duty pay, incentive pay including commissions and production bonuses, tips, and on-call pay are included. Excluded are back pay, jury duty pay, overtime pay, severance pay, shift differentials, non-production bonuses, employer cost for supplementary benefits, and tuition reimbursements.

The OES survey collects wage data in 12 intervals. Employers report the number of employees in an occupation for each wage range. The wage intervals used for the November 2004 survey are as follows:

Interval	Wages	
	Hourly	Annual
Range A	Under \$6.75	Under \$14,040
Range B	\$6.75 to \$8.49	\$14,040 to \$17,679
Range C	\$8.50 to \$10.74	\$17,680 to \$22,359
Range D	\$10.75 to \$13.49	\$22,360 to \$28,079
Range E	\$13.50 to \$16.99	\$28,080 to \$35,359
Range F	\$17.00 to \$21.49	\$35,360 to \$44,719
Range G	\$21.50 to \$27.24	\$44,720 to \$56,679
Range H	\$27.25 to \$34.49	\$56,680 to \$71,759
Range I	\$34.50 to \$43.74	\$71,760 to \$90,999
Range J	\$43.75 to \$55.49	\$91,000 to \$115,439
Range K	\$55.50 to \$69.99	\$115,440 to \$145,599
Range L	\$70.00 and over	\$145,600 and over

Mean hourly wage. The mean hourly wage rate for an occupation is the total wages that all workers in the occupation earn in an hour divided by the total employment of the occupation. To calculate the mean hourly wage of each occupation, total weighted hourly wages are summed across all intervals and divided by the occupation's weighted survey employment. The mean wage for each interval is based on occupational wage data collected by the BLS Office of Compensation and Working Conditions for the National Compensation Survey (NCS).

The mean hourly wage value for the highest wage interval, \$70.00 and over, was computed separately for NCS data from 2004, 2003, 2002, and 2001. The average of these mean wage rates was used for all of the \$70.00 and over data in the November 2004 survey. The wage rates for this interval do not go through any wage updating procedures.

Percentile wage. The p-th percentile wage range for an occupation is the wage where p percent of all workers earn that amount or less and where (100-p) percent of all workers earn that amount or more. This statistic is calculated by uniformly distributing the workers inside each wage interval, ranking the workers from lowest paid to highest paid, and calculating the product of the total employment for the occupation and the desired percentile to determine the worker that earns the p-th percentile wage rate.

Annual wage. Many employees are paid at an hourly rate by their employers and may work more than or less than 40 hours per week. Annual wage estimates for most occupations in this release are calculated by multiplying the mean hourly wage by a "year-round, full-time" figure of 2,080 hours (52 weeks by 40 hours). Thus, annual wage estimates may not represent the actual annual pay received by the employee if they work more or less than 2,080 hours per year. Some workers typically work less than full time, year round. For these occupations, the OES survey collects and reports either the annual salary or the hourly wage rate, depending on how the occupation is typically paid, but not both. For example, teachers, flight attendants, and pilots may be paid an annual salary, but do not work the usual 2,080 hours per year. In this case, an annual salary is reported. Other workers, such as entertainment workers are paid hourly rates, but generally do not work full time, year round. For these workers, only an hourly wage is reported.

Hourly versus annual wage reporting. For each occupation, respondents are asked to report the number of employees paid within specific wage intervals. The intervals are defined both as hourly rates and the corresponding annual rates, where the annual rate for an occupation is calculated by multiplying the hourly wage rate by a typical work year of 2,080 hours. The responding establishment can reference either the hourly or the annual rate for full-time workers, but they are instructed to report the hourly rate for part-time workers.

Estimation methodology:

Each OES panel includes approximately 200,000 establishments. While estimates can be made with data from one panel or one year, the OES survey is designed to produce estimates using six panels (3 years) of data. The full six-panel sample of 1.2 million establishments nationwide allows the production of estimates at detailed levels of geography, industry, and occupation. Combining six panels of data is also necessary to obtain the full complement of certainty establishments. (Note: The first semiannual panel was in November 2002. Prior to that, about 400,000 establishments were surveyed annually. Each earlier sample is a two-panel equivalent.)

Wage updating. Significant reductions in sampling errors are obtained by combining six panels of data, particularly for small geographic areas and occupations. Wages for the current panel need no adjustment. However, wages in the five previous panels need to be updated to the current panel's reference period.

The OES program uses the BLS Employment Cost Index (ECI) to adjust survey data from prior panels before combining them with the current panel's data. The wage updating procedure adjusts each detailed occupation's wage rate, as measured in the earlier panel, according to the average movement of its broader occupational division. The procedure assumes that there are no major differences by geography, industry, or detailed occupation within the occupational division.

Imputation. Over 20 percent of establishments do not respond for a given panel. A "nearest neighbor" hot deck imputation procedure is used to impute occupational employment totals. A variant of mean imputation is then used to impute a wage distribution for each occupation. The variant of mean imputation for wage distributions is also applied to establishments that provide reports with occupational totals but partial or missing wage data.

Weighting and benchmarking. The sample establishments in each panel are weighted to represent all establishments that were part of the in-scope frame from which the panel was selected. Based on the sampled establishments, weights are adjusted when six panels are combined. Weights are adjusted by benchmarking employment totals from the OES survey to employment figures derived from the BLS Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

November 2004 OES survey estimates. The November 2004 OES survey estimates are based on all data collected from establishments in the November 2004, May 2004, November 2003, May 2003, and November 2002 semiannual samples and half of the 2001 annual sample. During estimates processing, OES employment data were benchmarked to the average employment for November 2004 and May 2004 from the BLS Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Reliability of the estimates. Estimates calculated from a sample survey are subject to two types of error: sampling and nonsampling. Sampling error occurs when estimates are calculated from a subset (i.e., sample) of the population instead of the full population. When a sample of the population is surveyed, there is a chance that the sample estimate of the characteristic of interest may differ from the population value of that characteristic. Differences between the sample estimate and the population value will vary depending on the sample selected. This variability can be estimated by calculating the standard error (SE) of the sample estimate. If we were to repeat the sampling and estimation process countless times using the same survey design, approximately 90 percent of the intervals created by adding and subtracting 1.645 SEs from the sample estimate would include the population value. These intervals are called 90-percent confidence intervals. The OES survey, however, usually uses the relative standard error (RSE) of a sample estimate instead of its SE to measure sampling error. RSE is defined as the SE of a sample estimate divided by the sample estimate itself. This statistic provides the user with a measure of the relative precision of the sample estimate. RSEs are calculated for both occupational employment and mean wage rate estimates. Occupational employment RSEs are calculated using a subsample, random group replication technique called the jackknife. Mean wage rate RSEs are calculated using a variance components model that accounts for both the observed and unobserved components of the wage data. The variances of the unobserved components are estimated using wage data from the BLS National Compensation Survey. In general, estimates based on many establishments have lower RSEs than estimates based on few establishments. If the distributional assumptions of the models are violated, the resulting confidence intervals may not reflect the prescribed level of confidence.

Nonsampling error occurs for a variety of reasons, none of which are directly connected to sampling. Examples of nonsampling error include: nonresponse, data incorrectly reported by the respondent, mistakes made in entering collected data into the database, and mistakes made in editing and processing the collected data.

Results of significance testing. The OES significance tests in this release compared wage and employment data for the 22 major occupational groups in the Charleston metropolitan area to their respective national averages. Those occupations with wages or employment shares above or below the national wage or share after testing for significance at the 90 percent confidence interval are identified in the table below. NOTE: A value that is statically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with our ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and the heterogeneity of the sample effect the relative error of the data being tested.

Employment and wage data by occupation for the U.S. and Charleston, November 2004

Major occupational group	Employment Share (percent of total)			Mean hourly wage		
	U.S.	Charleston	Significant difference ¹	U.S.	Charleston	Significant difference ¹
Management	4.7	4.6	no	\$41.87	\$33.61	yes
Business and financial operations	4.1	3.9	no	27.46	21.56	yes
Computer and mathematical	2.3	1.3	yes	31.91	21.50	yes
Architecture and engineering	1.8	1.6	yes	30.32	24.62	yes
Life, physical, and social science	0.9	1.2	no	27.67	21.26	yes
Community and social services	1.3	1.3	no	17.81	13.85	yes
Legal	0.8	1.4	yes	39.03	32.43	yes
Education, training, and library	6.2	4.3	yes	20.58	18.49	yes
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	0.8	yes	21.07	16.16	yes
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.0	6.3	yes	28.03	24.25	yes
Healthcare support	2.6	2.7	no	11.30	9.57	yes
Protective service	2.4	2.1	no	16.94	12.07	yes
Food preparation and serving related	8.2	7.4	yes	8.47	7.35	yes
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.3	3.3	no	10.42	8.57	yes
Personal care and service	2.4	1.6	yes	10.62	9.21	yes
Sales and related	10.6	11.9	yes	15.52	13.46	yes
Office and administrative support	17.5	19.8	yes	14.13	12.32	yes
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1	yes	9.94	8.31	yes
Construction and extraction	4.9	6.6	yes	18.21	18.06	no
Installation, maintenance, and repair	4.1	4.9	yes	18.09	17.19	yes
Production	7.9	4.8	yes	14.18	15.07	yes
Transportation and material moving	7.4	8.1	no	13.58	12.36	yes

¹ Statistical significance testing at the 90 percent confidence interval.

Additional information:

The November 2004 OES national data by occupation, comparable to data in table 1, will be available soon on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/oes/>. Users also may access each occupation's definition and percentile wages. The November 2004 cross-industry data for states and metropolitan areas are available on the BLS Web site. Industry staffing patterns at the sector, 3-, 4-, and selected 5-digit NAICS levels also are available from the Internet. These data will include industry-specific occupational employment and wage data.

Complete survey results are available from the Mid-Atlantic Information Office by calling 215-597-3282 or by e-mailing BLSinfoPhiladelphia@bls.gov. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Charleston metropolitan area, November 2004

Occupation	Employment	Mean wages		Median hourly wages
		Hourly	Annual ¹	
Management occupations				
Chief executives	320	57.32	119,230	51.41
General and operations managers	1,940	37.59	78,180	32.84
Advertising and promotions managers	130	22.85	47,530	21.53
Marketing managers	130	33.17	68,990	27.60
Sales managers	220	35.89	74,640	29.22
Administrative services managers	220	27.87	57,970	27.09
Computer and information systems managers	180	33.06	68,760	31.86
Financial managers	520	31.66	65,850	29.42
Compensation and benefits managers	40	25.52	53,080	23.15
Human resources managers, all other	50	31.52	65,560	29.32
Industrial production managers	50	34.85	72,490	31.58
Purchasing managers	50	30.31	63,050	27.56
Transportation, storage, and distribution managers	90	29.57	61,500	28.21
Construction managers	90	31.75	66,050	30.87
Education administrators, elementary and secondary school	230	(3)	61,310	(3)
Education administrators, postsecondary	60	28.87	60,050	27.49
Engineering managers	160	41.89	87,130	40.06
Food service managers	140	18.54	38,570	17.46
Lodging managers	30	(5)	(5)	(5)
Medical and health services managers	420	28.25	58,770	25.43
Natural sciences managers	60	36.96	76,870	33.30
Postmasters and mail superintendents	50	25.45	52,940	24.22
Property, real estate, and community association managers	120	19.95	41,490	16.44
Social and community service managers	140	22.64	47,080	21.76
Managers, all other	280	30.04	62,480	26.11
Business and financial operations occupations				
Wholesale and retail buyers, except farm products	150	17.55	36,510	13.89
Purchasing agents, except wholesale, retail, and farm products	150	22.46	46,730	19.79
Claims adjusters, examiners, and investigators	570	19.88	41,340	16.74
Compliance officers, except agriculture, construction, health and safety, and transportation	240	22.35	46,480	19.94
Cost estimators	170	27.00	56,170	23.97
Employment, recruitment, and placement specialists	210	15.73	32,720	13.04
Compensation, benefits, and job analysis specialists	80	19.47	40,510	18.38
Training and development specialists	150	19.57	40,710	19.41
Human resources, training, and labor relations specialists, all other	220	23.04	47,920	23.17
Meeting and convention planners	(4)	29.80	61,990	29.99
Business operations specialists, all other	580	22.26	46,290	21.20
Accountants and auditors	1,210	22.06	45,890	20.42
Appraisers and assessors of real estate	60	19.93	41,450	18.99
Credit analysts	60	18.74	38,970	16.59
Financial analysts	110	24.37	50,690	21.47
Personal financial advisors	80	23.81	49,520	17.43
Insurance underwriters	80	21.06	43,810	19.68
Financial examiners	40	33.49	69,670	33.60
Loan officers	120	19.98	41,560	18.77
Tax examiners, collectors, and revenue agents	90	17.20	35,780	14.83
Tax preparers	(4)	17.33	36,050	16.17
Financial specialists, all other	80	17.56	36,530	15.84
Computer and mathematical occupations				
Computer programmers	390	21.05	43,770	20.34
Computer software engineers, applications	50	29.44	61,240	28.99
Computer software engineers, systems software	70	23.40	48,660	22.92
Computer support specialists	320	14.34	29,830	13.50
Computer systems analysts	200	26.36	54,830	26.24
Database administrators	120	19.55	40,670	18.92
Network and computer systems administrators	210	24.94	51,870	23.54
Network systems and data communications analysts	170	21.53	44,770	20.21

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Charleston metropolitan area, November 2004--Continued

Occupation	Employment	Mean wages		Median hourly wages
		Hourly	Annual ¹	
Architecture and engineering occupations				
Surveyors	130	22.47	46,740	21.12
Chemical engineers	90	40.42	84,080	40.25
Civil engineers	380	26.89	55,930	26.61
Computer hardware engineers	(4)	24.58	51,130	21.86
Electrical engineers	80	34.77	72,320	35.77
Electronics engineers, except computer	30	24.52	51,010	23.83
Environmental engineers	40	30.09	62,580	30.18
Health and safety engineers, except mining safety engineers and inspectors	70	22.70	47,220	23.15
Industrial engineers	50	26.95	56,050	27.77
Mechanical engineers	50	28.60	59,500	27.38
Petroleum engineers	30	29.67	61,720	29.23
Engineers, all other	(4)	32.33	67,240	33.54
Architectural and civil drafters	80	17.51	36,420	18.23
Mechanical drafters	50	14.88	30,960	14.77
Civil engineering technicians	300	17.64	36,690	17.25
Electrical and electronic engineering technicians	140	21.83	45,410	23.08
Environmental engineering technicians	40	17.89	37,200	17.61
Engineering technicians, except drafters, all other	50	25.79	53,650	29.24
Surveying and mapping technicians	130	16.46	34,240	16.46
Life, physical, and social science occupations				
Chemists	(4)	24.01	49,940	20.07
Environmental scientists and specialists, including health	180	20.40	42,430	19.52
Geoscientists, except hydrologists and geographers	80	24.07	50,070	20.09
Clinical, counseling, and school psychologists	90	23.65	49,190	20.12
Urban and regional planners	50	22.18	46,130	21.89
Social scientists and related workers, all other	190	15.78	32,830	15.44
Biological technicians	(4)	13.25	27,550	13.25
Chemical technicians	120	18.76	39,020	21.30
Environmental science and protection technicians, including health	60	12.43	25,860	10.91
Community and social services occupations				
Educational, vocational, and school counselors	270	19.79	41,170	20.01
Marriage and family therapists	(4)	19.44	40,440	18.19
Mental health counselors	70	14.59	30,340	13.38
Child, family, and school social workers	220	12.42	25,830	12.28
Medical and public health social workers	240	15.62	32,490	16.03
Mental health and substance abuse social workers	90	11.31	23,530	11.02
Health educators	170	10.01	20,810	8.93
Social and human service assistants	330	9.33	19,400	8.80
Legal occupations				
Lawyers	900	46.35	96,400	34.92
Judges, magistrate judges, and magistrates	90	26.17	54,430	27.33
Paralegals and legal assistants	630	16.52	34,370	15.33
Title examiners, abstractors, and searchers	50	23.18	48,220	23.68
Legal support workers, all other	30	21.35	44,410	19.78
Education, training, and library occupations				
Business teachers, postsecondary	50	(3)	54,400	(3)
Health specialties teachers, postsecondary	120	(3)	38,730	(3)
English language and literature teachers, postsecondary	30	(3)	55,350	(3)
Vocational education teachers, postsecondary	270	25.01	52,020	19.52
Preschool teachers, except special education	200	8.54	17,770	7.87
Kindergarten teachers, except special education	170	(3)	41,790	(3)
Middle school teachers, except special and vocational education	760	(3)	41,210	(3)
Vocational education teachers, secondary school	(4)	(3)	41,240	(3)
Special education teachers, preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school	370	(3)	42,520	(3)
Adult literacy, remedial education, and GED teachers and instructors	60	13.91	28,930	12.36
Teachers and instructors, all other	60	(3)	29,220	(3)

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Charleston metropolitan area, November 2004--Continued

Occupation	Employment	Mean wages		Median hourly wages
		Hourly	Annual ¹	
Education, training, and library occupations--Continued				
Librarians	140	20.57	42,790	20.57
Library technicians	250	9.47	19,690	8.47
Instructional coordinators	80	24.95	51,890	25.28
Teacher assistants	480	(3)	24,300	(3)
Education, training, and library workers, all other	90	12.25	25,480	11.45
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations				
Floral designers	60	9.19	19,120	9.28
Graphic designers	80	16.93	35,200	16.52
Interior designers	40	17.65	36,710	19.21
Merchandise displayers and window trimmers	30	10.69	22,240	8.61
Producers and directors	40	15.35	31,930	13.59
Coaches and scouts	50	(3)	28,430	(3)
Radio and television announcers	70	18.51	38,490	13.60
Public relations specialists	160	17.27	35,920	16.57
Writers and authors	(4)	17.00	35,370	15.39
Broadcast technicians	50	14.04	29,190	12.58
Photographers	60	14.03	29,190	13.74
Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations				
Dentists, general	(4)	33.96	70,640	32.95
Dietitians and nutritionists	70	21.54	44,800	21.43
Optometrists	30	41.60	86,530	36.13
Pharmacists	260	41.62	86,560	42.59
Anesthesiologists	(4)	93.02	193,470	(2)
Family and general practitioners	60	64.83	134,840	63.63
Internists, general	40	87.12	181,210	(2)
Obstetricians and gynecologists	(4)	70.71	147,080	(2)
Surgeons	60	(5)	(5)	(5)
Physicians and surgeons, all other	100	62.94	130,910	53.91
Physician assistants	70	30.15	62,720	29.97
Registered nurses	3,400	22.21	46,190	21.02
Occupational therapists	60	29.76	61,900	28.14
Physical therapists	160	33.27	69,190	31.74
Respiratory therapists	140	18.34	38,150	18.63
Speech-language pathologists	140	23.14	48,120	21.83
Veterinarians	50	42.60	88,610	31.52
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners, all other	(4)	85.23	177,270	(2)
Medical and clinical laboratory technologists	(4)	19.26	40,060	19.48
Medical and clinical laboratory technicians	140	15.03	31,270	15.24
Dental hygienists	(4)	20.27	42,150	20.45
Cardiovascular technologists and technicians	(4)	14.93	31,050	14.46
Diagnostic medical sonographers	90	25.01	52,010	24.43
Nuclear medicine technologists	40	25.34	52,710	25.06
Radiologic technologists and technicians	210	17.93	37,290	17.56
Pharmacy technicians	340	10.09	20,990	9.95
Surgical technologists	200	12.36	25,710	12.31
Veterinary technologists and technicians	80	10.00	20,810	10.05
Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses	1,040	15.09	31,390	15.00
Medical records and health information technicians	170	10.76	22,380	10.58
Opticians, dispensing	40	10.95	22,780	10.95
Healthcare support occupations				
Home health aides	470	8.23	17,130	8.17
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	1,640	8.96	18,630	8.94
Physical therapist assistants	110	11.79	24,530	10.41
Physical therapist aides	50	10.11	21,020	9.59
Dental assistants	(4)	10.61	22,070	9.87
Medical assistants	470	10.24	21,310	10.10
Medical equipment preparers	(4)	11.66	24,260	11.39
Medical transcriptionists	170	12.57	26,150	11.81
Pharmacy aides	60	6.71	13,950	6.28
Veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers	80	8.35	17,370	8.11
Healthcare support workers, all other	120	13.75	28,590	13.83

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Charleston metropolitan area, November 2004--Continued

Occupation	Employment	Mean wages		Median hourly wages
		Hourly	Annual ¹	
Protective service occupations				
First-line supervisors/managers of police and detectives	30	30.87	64,200	27.02
First-line supervisors/managers, protective service workers, all other	40	14.20	29,540	12.57
Detectives and criminal investigators	140	22.05	45,860	16.79
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	570	15.81	32,890	15.77
Private detectives and investigators	(4)	23.47	48,820	24.27
Security guards	1,250	7.37	15,320	6.80
Lifeguards, ski patrol, and other recreational protective service workers	60	6.35	13,220	6.33
Protective service workers, all other	50	14.67	30,510	12.47
Food preparation and serving related occupations				
Chefs and head cooks	40	10.54	21,920	9.41
First-line supervisors/managers of food preparation and serving workers	700	11.88	24,710	10.69
Cooks, fast food	730	6.40	13,310	6.39
Cooks, institution and cafeteria	510	9.13	18,990	9.22
Cooks, restaurant	810	8.58	17,840	8.16
Cooks, short order	(4)	7.51	15,620	7.69
Food preparation workers	920	6.99	14,530	6.47
Bartenders	250	7.00	14,550	6.58
Combined food preparation and serving workers, including fast food	2,310	6.40	13,310	6.27
Counter attendants, cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shop	130	6.40	13,320	6.29
Waiters and waitresses	1,920	6.61	13,760	6.42
Food servers, nonrestaurant	150	8.53	17,730	8.33
Dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers	200	6.82	14,190	6.81
Dishwashers	350	6.56	13,640	6.46
Hosts and hostesses, restaurant, lounge, and coffee shop	260	6.88	14,310	6.98
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations				
First-line supervisors/managers of housekeeping and janitorial workers	160	11.11	23,110	10.02
First-line supervisors/managers of landscaping, lawn service, and groundskeeping workers	70	15.46	32,160	14.00
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	2,430	8.36	17,390	7.15
Maids and housekeeping cleaners	800	7.66	15,940	7.50
Pest control workers	80	11.00	22,890	9.81
Landscaping and groundskeeping workers	640	8.86	18,430	8.20
Personal care and service occupations				
First-line supervisors/managers of personal service workers	70	19.02	39,560	11.81
Nonfarm animal caretakers	40	8.18	17,010	7.80
Amusement and recreation attendants	100	7.22	15,010	6.60
Embalmers	(4)	28.39	59,060	30.35
Funeral attendants	80	9.82	20,420	8.76
Hairdressers, hairstylists, and cosmetologists	310	8.34	17,360	7.80
Child care workers	210	6.48	13,470	6.44
Personal and home care aides	500	6.88	14,310	6.85
Fitness trainers and aerobics instructors	170	11.16	23,210	11.16
Recreation workers	170	10.61	22,060	10.52
Sales and related occupations				
First-line supervisors/managers of retail sales workers	1,200	17.08	35,520	13.36
First-line supervisors/managers of non-retail sales workers	370	29.63	61,630	26.18
Cashiers	3,770	6.71	13,950	6.40
Counter and rental clerks	400	9.23	19,190	7.96
Parts salespersons	270	14.02	29,170	13.61
Retail salespersons	4,000	9.67	20,120	8.00
Advertising sales agents	240	17.85	37,130	14.41
Insurance sales agents	520	18.38	38,230	15.84
Securities, commodities, and financial services sales agents	210	24.64	51,250	15.66

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Charleston metropolitan area, November 2004--Continued

Occupation	Employment	Mean wages		Median hourly wages
		Hourly	Annual ¹	
Sales and related occupations--Continued				
Sales representatives, services, all other	260	22.70	47,210	24.11
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, technical and scientific products	290	24.51	50,980	24.02
Sales representatives, wholesale and manufacturing, except technical and scientific products	1,700	24.68	51,330	19.34
Real estate sales agents	100	22.07	45,910	18.25
Telemarketers	1,560	13.41	27,890	10.10
Sales and related workers, all other	40	18.47	38,430	22.10
Office and administrative support occupations				
First-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers	1,500	19.42	40,390	17.55
Switchboard operators, including answering service	270	9.10	18,920	8.91
Bill and account collectors	340	11.36	23,630	10.90
Billing and posting clerks and machine operators	790	11.63	24,190	11.18
Bookkeeping, accounting, and auditing clerks	2,100	12.73	26,480	12.40
Payroll and timekeeping clerks	210	13.65	28,390	13.15
Procurement clerks	60	13.84	28,790	13.45
Tellers	710	8.85	18,410	8.78
Court, municipal, and license clerks	180	9.45	19,650	9.16
Customer service representatives	1,490	11.95	24,850	11.27
File clerks	300	9.04	18,800	8.37
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	170	8.02	16,690	8.00
Interviewers, except eligibility and loan	370	8.34	17,350	7.91
Library assistants, clerical	(4)	7.82	16,270	7.75
Loan interviewers and clerks	60	10.96	22,790	9.52
New accounts clerks	100	12.33	25,640	12.23
Order clerks	190	13.29	27,650	12.79
Human resources assistants, except payroll and timekeeping	90	14.41	29,970	14.09
Receptionists and information clerks	980	9.56	19,890	9.48
All other information and record clerks	220	17.94	37,320	16.34
Couriers and messengers	(4)	9.30	19,350	8.60
Police, fire, and ambulance dispatchers	130	10.32	21,460	10.26
Dispatchers, except police, fire, and ambulance	110	13.71	28,510	13.45
Meter readers, utilities	90	13.58	28,250	13.01
Postal service clerks	100	21.55	44,820	22.14
Postal service mail carriers	290	20.65	42,950	20.92
Postal service mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators	350	18.26	37,980	19.59
Production, planning, and expediting clerks	180	18.14	37,720	18.65
Shipping, receiving, and traffic clerks	390	10.38	21,590	9.96
Stock clerks and order fillers	1,490	9.93	20,650	9.15
Weighers, measurers, checkers, and samplers, recordkeeping	(4)	13.87	28,850	14.45
Executive secretaries and administrative assistants	1,200	16.01	33,290	15.24
Legal secretaries	440	14.91	31,020	14.62
Medical secretaries	390	9.89	20,580	9.82
Secretaries, except legal, medical, and executive	2,370	12.56	26,130	11.83
Computer operators	180	13.46	28,000	12.37
Data entry keyers	640	12.01	24,980	12.01
Word processors and typists	100	11.90	24,750	10.68
Mail clerks and mail machine operators, except postal service	140	9.66	20,100	9.13
Office clerks, general	4,390	10.82	22,510	10.08
Office machine operators, except computer	80	11.19	23,270	11.20
Office and administrative support workers, all other	90	12.70	26,420	12.06
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations				
Fallers	(4)	7.72	16,060	7.39

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Charleston metropolitan area, November 2004--Continued

Occupation	Employment	Mean wages		Median hourly wages
		Hourly	Annual ¹	
Construction and extraction occupations				
First-line supervisors/managers of construction trades and extraction workers	550	26.70	55,530	27.13
Brickmasons and blockmasons	(4)	11.88	24,710	11.50
Carpenters	1,110	15.73	32,720	13.25
Carpet installers	80	12.00	24,960	10.74
Cement masons and concrete finishers	110	18.35	38,170	16.86
Construction laborers	810	16.32	33,950	16.09
Operating engineers and other construction equipment operators	1,150	18.88	39,270	17.67
Electricians	860	20.93	43,540	19.69
Painters, construction and maintenance	300	18.67	38,840	19.68
Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	770	20.64	42,930	20.06
Roofers	(4)	18.03	37,500	22.00
Sheet metal workers	170	20.46	42,560	21.49
Structural iron and steel workers	80	17.42	36,240	14.77
Helpers--carpenters	350	9.63	20,030	9.46
Helpers--electricians	80	11.81	24,560	11.40
Helpers--pipelayers, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters	60	9.57	19,900	9.30
Construction and building inspectors	230	17.66	36,730	17.27
Elevator installers and repairers	100	28.33	58,930	30.65
Service unit operators, oil, gas, and mining	(4)	12.52	26,040	12.30
Earth drillers, except oil and gas	60	15.09	31,380	15.05
Explosives workers, ordnance handling experts, and blasters	50	15.37	31,980	14.32
Continuous mining machine operators	(4)	19.32	40,190	19.54
Roof bolters, mining	50	19.87	41,320	20.04
Roustabouts, oil and gas	60	11.41	23,730	11.69
Helpers--extraction workers	(4)	17.94	37,310	19.30
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations				
First-line supervisors/managers of mechanics, installers, and repairers	550	24.52	51,000	25.07
Computer, automated teller, and office machine repairers	310	17.02	35,400	16.48
Telecommunications equipment installers and repairers, except line installers	200	23.04	47,920	23.70
Electrical and electronics repairers, commercial and industrial equipment	40	17.98	37,410	17.20
Electrical and electronics repairers, powerhouse, substation, and relay	110	26.08	54,240	26.16
Aircraft mechanics and service technicians	70	21.89	45,530	22.07
Automotive body and related repairers	120	12.76	26,550	11.05
Automotive service technicians and mechanics	710	13.39	27,860	12.07
Bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists	370	16.71	34,750	16.12
Mobile heavy equipment mechanics, except engines	350	17.47	36,330	18.08
Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers	(4)	19.73	41,030	15.81
Home appliance repairers	40	9.39	19,520	8.77
Industrial machinery mechanics	700	20.13	41,880	18.91
Maintenance and repair workers, general	1,060	12.97	26,980	12.31
Maintenance workers, machinery	160	13.26	27,580	12.79
Electrical power-line installers and repairers	150	23.62	49,130	23.50
Telecommunications line installers and repairers	130	16.95	35,260	18.03
Coin, vending, and amusement machine servicers and repairers	120	13.86	28,830	11.76
Manufactured building and mobile home installers	(4)	11.24	23,370	11.41
Riggers	(4)	20.73	43,120	24.23
Helpers--installation, maintenance, and repair workers	110	15.11	31,430	14.01
Installation, maintenance, and repair workers, all other	90	17.36	36,110	14.00

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Charleston metropolitan area, November 2004--Continued

Occupation	Employment	Mean wages		Median hourly wages
		Hourly	Annual ¹	
Production occupations				
First-line supervisors/managers of production and operating workers	540	25.14	52,300	22.60
Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers	(4)	12.84	26,710	12.61
Structural metal fabricators and fitters	60	14.44	30,030	13.57
Team assemblers	160	11.22	23,350	11.86
Assemblers and fabricators, all other	120	9.83	20,440	8.41
Bakers	40	8.83	18,360	8.19
Butchers and meat cutters	130	11.04	22,970	10.81
Cutting, punching, and press machine setters, operators, and tenders, metal and plastic	(4)	10.61	22,060	10.18
Machinists	280	14.30	29,740	13.28
Tool and die makers	(4)	17.29	35,950	15.08
Welders, cutters, solderers, and brazers	620	15.99	33,270	14.77
Printing machine operators	210	11.44	23,780	11.29
Laundry and dry-cleaning workers	130	7.62	15,840	7.73
Pressers, textile, garment, and related materials	100	7.38	15,350	6.96
Sewing machine operators	(4)	8.55	17,790	8.01
Cabinetmakers and bench carpenters	60	12.38	25,750	11.16
Water and liquid waste treatment plant and system operators	210	12.34	25,660	12.05
Chemical plant and system operators	300	29.84	62,070	27.94
Gas plant operators	(4)	21.13	43,940	21.13
Chemical equipment operators and tenders	(4)	21.19	44,080	20.80
Grinding and polishing workers, hand	40	10.04	20,890	9.59
Mixing and blending machine setters, operators, and tenders	(4)	20.53	42,710	23.68
Inspectors, testers, sorters, samplers, and weighers	390	14.38	29,910	13.01
Dental laboratory technicians	100	12.58	26,170	11.87
Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders	80	13.00	27,030	12.02
Photographic processing machine operators	50	8.93	18,570	8.31
Helpers--production workers	240	9.86	20,510	8.12
Production workers, all other	110	11.18	23,250	11.33
Transportation and material moving occupations				
First-line supervisors/managers of helpers, laborers, and material movers, hand	110	16.09	33,460	14.53
First-line supervisors/managers of transportation and material-moving machine and vehicle operators	360	20.93	43,530	19.98
Commercial pilots	50	(3)	53,490	(3)
Driver/sales workers	680	10.43	21,700	8.32
Truck drivers, heavy and tractor-trailer	2,010	15.62	32,490	14.92
Truck drivers, light or delivery services	1,320	10.14	21,090	9.70
Taxi drivers and chauffeurs	60	7.14	14,850	7.05
Sailors and marine oilers	(4)	8.26	17,170	8.05
Captains, mates, and pilots of water vessels	(4)	20.80	43,260	19.77
Parking lot attendants	110	7.55	15,690	7.61
Service station attendants	50	6.64	13,820	6.41
Crane and tower operators	130	17.31	36,000	16.55
Excavating and loading machine and dragline operators	(4)	14.56	30,290	13.21
Industrial truck and tractor operators	450	12.06	25,080	11.36
Cleaners of vehicles and equipment	390	7.88	16,400	7.40
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	2,280	9.79	20,350	8.66
Packers and packagers, hand	410	9.06	18,840	7.92
Gas compressor and gas pumping station operators	(4)	21.43	44,570	22.31
Wellhead pumpers	90	16.23	33,770	14.61
Refuse and recyclable material collectors	150	10.54	21,930	10.66
Tank car, truck, and ship loaders	100	15.27	31,770	15.53
Material moving workers, all other	(4)	14.00	29,120	13.00

1 Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a 'year-round, full-time' hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.

2 Represents a wage above \$70.00 per hour.

3 Hourly wage rates for occupations where workers typically work fewer than 2,080 hours per year are not available.

4 Indicates that an employment estimate is not available.

5 Indicates that a wage estimate is not available.